The proposal from Kerala would be considered as and when a scheme for Information and Communication Technology is formulated by the Government.

Job-oriented courses

1823. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether UGC has recently announced a plan to allow colleges and universities to run job-oriented courses alongwith conventional courses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of colleges/universities, State-wise, which have been permitted to start job-oriented course; and

(d) whether UGC also proposes to extend financial assistance to the colleges/universities to start such courses?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) The University Grants Commission has introduced the scheme of 'Career Oriented Programmes' during the Xth Plan, which has a flexible system of Certificate/Diploma/Advanced Diploma programme, which will run parallel to the conventional degree courses. The students would have the freedom to diversify into various fields not necessarily related with their core discipline. The objective is to introduce career and market oriented, skill enhancing, add-on courses that have utility for job, self-employment and empowerment of students. The Colleges/ Universities have to opt for a minimum of three courses in each stream of Humanities, Commerce and Sciences. It is the prerogative of the Universities/Colleges to identify their own 'Need Based' career oriented courses.

(c) During the year 2003-04, UGC has permitted 368 colleges and 2 Universities to start such courses. A Statement of State-wise list of number of colleges/universities is enclosed (*See* below).

(d) Yes, Sir. The Universities/Colleges are being provided assistance under Section 2(f) and 12-B of the UGC Act, 1956.

Statement

'JOB-ORIENTED COURSES'

Number of Universities/Colleges permitted to start Job-oriented courses by the University Grants Commission during the year 2003-04

S.No.	Name of the State	Number of Universities/Colleges
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12
2.	Assam	28
3.	Bihar	16
4.	Delhi	5 (including 1 University)
5.	Goa	3
6.	Gujarat	10
7.	Haryana	17
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	4
10.	Jharkhand	3
11.	Karnataka	24
12.	Kerala	31
13.	Madhya Pradesh	13
14.	Maharashtra	63
15.	Manipur	1
16.	Orissa	15
17.	Punjab	29
18.	Rajasthan	12
19.	Tamil Nadu	43 (including 1 Deemed University)
20.	Uttar Pradesh	20
21.	Uttaranachal	2
22.	West Bengal	18
	TOTAL:	370 (including 2 universities)